

WICHITA, KANSAS

2:00 PM

MORNING 105,641

EVENING 76,618

SUNDAY 123,192

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STATINTL

Ike and the U2's

An article in the current issue of Look magazine discloses that President Eisenhower had grave misgivings about the country's U2 spy plane program as long as five years before Gary Francis Powers crashed in the Soviet Union.

He expressed them when he approved the U2 program in 1955, Look says, and told his advisers: "If one of these planes is shot down, this is going to be on my head. I'm going to catch hell. The world will be in a mess."

It happened, but the results weren't quite as bad as Eisenhower had feared. His actions at the time didn't quite jibe with his earlier remarks as quoted by Look. His message at the time of the Powers incident had a bewildered sound, as if he wasn't quite certain what the U2 program was, but was willing to assume the responsibility for it.

But now comes evidence that he was afraid of it from the start and said so; then and three years later, when he is supposed to have told Jim Hickey he had often asked people in the Central Intelligence Agency: "What happens if you're caught?" They just kept answering that it hadn't happened yet.

The trouble apparently was that too many responsibilities were delegated and President Eisenhower was not always current on developments. It is hard to imagine the present occupant of the White House tolerating a program he had so little faith in.